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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

13 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
The Secretary of Defense

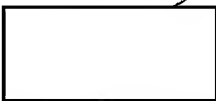
SUBJECT: A New Departure

1. As you know, traditional practice and procedure has involved doing two basic annual estimates on Soviet military capabilities: 11-8 on offensive capabilities and 11-3 on defensive ones. Virtually all traditional practices need periodic critical re-examination and this one is no exception. Howard Stoertz and I felt that in 1974 we should try the new departure of combining both of these exercises into a single study for several reasons, chiefly two:

(a) A conceptual one which is the more important. A single study looking at both offensive and defensive capabilities and giving a policy-level reader (e.g., yourself) a rounded view of total Soviet capabilities in a single document makes more logical sense. Further, it seems to us that it would be handier for a reader to have the whole story laid out in one paper rather than have its two main component parts treated separately in different documents published at different times.

(b) On procedural and workload grounds, one big agony is preferable to two annual agonies, each of which may involve slightly lesser stress but whose sum nets to a greater amount of concentrated work, some of it involving redundancy and duplication which is preventable by going a single study route.

2. Attached is a prospectus for the combined estimate drafted by Howard. We would welcome your personal comments on and reactions to it.


George A. Carver, Jr.

Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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Attachment

cc: NIO/SP

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